

**CITY OF LODI
INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING
"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2004**

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, January 27, 2004, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members – Beckman, Hitchcock, Howard, Land, and Mayor Hansen

Absent: Council Members – None

Also Present: City Manager Flynn, Interim City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Blackston

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hansen reported that the advertisement for the position of Lodi City Attorney would be forwarded to the League of California Cities *Western City* magazine today for publication. He recalled that on January 21, 2004, Council had voted to increase the salary of Interim City Attorney Schwabauer to step A of the City Attorney's salary range. It was subsequently brought to his attention that there is no specified range for the position. He suggested that Mr. Schwabauer's pay be increased 10%. No objections were expressed by Council.

B. CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR UPDATE

City Clerk Blackston reviewed the weekly calendar (filed).

C. TOPIC(S)

C-1 "Fire Department Paramedic Program, County Emergency Medical Services RFP, and partnership update"

With the aid of overheads (filed), Ty Mayfield, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator, provided Council with statistical information related to emergency calls. He reported that the Fire Department would be organizing its resources for the worse case scenario on a day to day basis. On average, two to three calls are received per hour and one CPR is conducted approximately every ten days. Mr. Mayfield stated that he had prepared a written plan and budget for the Department's first response program, which was being reviewed by senior staff. A phased-in implementation is planned. He stated that currently there is no recognition of the economic value of the Fire Department first response. Staff is working to correct this through the county system redesign process, as well as establishing a formal relationship with a transport agency. Mr. Mayfield reported that commercial ambulance companies are competing for patients, which is evident by the ambulance maneuvering often seen along Kettleman Lane. The county has recently hired a consultant to develop Requests for Proposals (RFP) for ambulance service. Based on documents originated at the county EMS, it appears its intent is to have a single ambulance provider for the entire county, i.e. in the zones that are not already designated as exclusive. Mr. Mayfield stated that this was not in the best interest of Lodi. He stated that with regard to oversight and quality management, the dispatch center is not being utilized or supported to its full potential. The existing system is oriented toward finding and fixing individual mistakes, rather than examining production processes in aggregate to improve the entire system.

In answer to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Mayfield explained that the county designates geographic areas and assigns them individual units. The marker for identifying the areas is the intersection of Kettleman Lane and Stockton Street. The unit to the west will be closest to the activity center and therefore will get the most calls.

Fire Chief Pretz reported that in November 2003 the county EMS agency hired a consultant to redesign the EMS ambulance transport system. Within the next 12 to 18 months the county will be changing from non-exclusive zones to exclusive operating areas. There are five ambulance zones, in which Lodi is designated as zone four. The RFP process will culminate with the county EMS agency awarding a contract to a single provider for ambulance transport services. Chief Pretz stated that the Lodi Fire Department will be working in partnership with the Stockton Fire Department and American Medical Response (AMR) to provide a consortium/joint venture to bid on the entire process. AMR would be the transport agency. He stated that there needs to be recognition of, and revenue for, providing first responder level of service and there should be local control over the placement and number of ambulances. The county will also be asked to take into consideration the population densities for ambulance placement. Chief Pretz asked Council for a consensus to continue working on the draft joint venture agreement. He anticipated returning to Council at a regular meeting within two to three weeks with the final agreement. He commented that the Department is only "budget support away" from having the paramedic program in place. If funds became available, the Department could start hiring paramedics beginning in the next fiscal year and have paramedics on board engine companies by the end of the year.

NOTE: Council Member Land left at 7:46 a.m.

In reply to City Manager Flynn, Chief Pretz explained that Ripon, Escalon, Manteca, and Lathrop are already in exclusive operating zones and are not a part of the overall redesign of the system.

In answer to Council Member Howard, Chief Pretz believed that all concerns from the Lodi Professional Firefighters Association and other interest groups would be addressed in the joint venture agreement and corresponding operating agreement.

D. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

E. ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 a.m.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Blackston
City Clerk